

Connecticut General Assembly-Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

February 23, 2016

Re: HB 5350 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON FLUORIDATION OF THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

Dear Senator Gerrantana, Representative Ritter, and members of the Public Health Committee:

As a **dental hygienist** providing preventive oral health care in Southeastern Connecticut for the past **50+ years**, I am delighted to learn that the Public Health Committee has raised a bill to continue the requirement to add fluoride in public water supplies. This bill will optimize the **community water fluoridation to the level recommended by the US Department of Health and Human Services**. Please support HB 5350, An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations on Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cites community water fluoridation one of [10 great public health achievements of the 20th century](#).

The decrease in dental caries in children consuming fluoridated community water during tooth development and beyond is the greatest advancement in preventive oral health care that I observed my long career (1959 – 2015). More seniors are keeping all or most of their teeth, fewer dentures are needed thanks in part to the benefits of fluoridation.

A 2002 research paper concluded that fluoridated water is “the most effective and practical method” for closing the gap of tooth decay between affluent and disadvantaged Americans. The cost to fluoridate water for the lifetime of one person is less than the cost to treat one cavity.

As a member of the Public Health Committee, I know you share my concern for oral health care measures that affect all of us as a community. **I urge you to support this very important measure that will ensure healthier children and adults in our state.** If I can be of any assistance, please contact me. Thank you for your time and your commitment to the health of all Connecticut citizens.

Sincerely,

Beverly P. Whitford

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President, American Dental Hygienists' Association, 1998-99

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